CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE LEADERS OF THE G-8 COUNTRIES REGARDING THE NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS CONDUCTED BY INDIA

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter from the Prime Minister of Pakistan addressed to the leaders of the G-8 countries regarding the nuclear weapon tests conducted by India.

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Munir Akram
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE LEADERS OF THE G-8 COUNTRIES

"The nuclear testing by India of a whole range of weaponry, including systems which are Pakistan specific, has multiplied the immediacy and the magnitude of threat to our security.

Besides fundamentally altering the precarious strategic balance, which contributed to the maintenance of tenuous peace, this Indian action has raised the possibility of aggressive military acts against Pakistan.

You would certainly agree that overt weaponization by India is yet another manifestation of the highly irresponsible and reckless actions taken by India to escalate tensions in the region in recent weeks.

The BJP government has already made its aggressive designs against Pakistan a fundamental article of its policy agenda. In recent days, it has taken steps to implement its designs, including military action across the Line of Control in Kashmir.

In the face of these ominous developments which pose an immediate threat to our security, we cannot be expected to remain complacent.

I had, in April 1998 , drawn your attention to the consequences that would ensue from India's induction of nuclear weapons. We are disappointed that our warnings were not heeded. The latest events have proven us completely right.

We are once again being asked to exercise restraint at an extremely critical juncture on matters involving national security and survival.

I trust that you would recognize and be receptive to Pakistan's legitimate needs for self-defence".